

GOCA

Greater Olney Civic Association

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www.goca.org

September 1, 2011

Mr. Jason Tai, Chairman
Montgomery County Redistricting Commission

Mr. Tai and Commission Members:

Matt Zaborsky
President
NORTON MEADOWS

Jodi Finkelstein
Executive Vice President
HILLCREST

Lori Wilen
First Vice President
CHERRYWOOD

Theresa Robinson
Second Vice President
OLNEY OAKS

Lori Goodwin
Recording Secretary
HILLCREST

Kathy Curtis
Corresponding Secretary
7 Mile HARTOWN

Ruth Laughner
Treasurer
WILKINSON VILLAGE

I am here this evening on behalf of the Greater Olney Civic Association – commonly known as GOCA. We represent more than 30 Homeowners Associations from Olney and have been considered a voice for our community since our inception. We have advocated for many issues affecting the quality of life in Olney including land use and zoning, pedestrian safety, traffic, and roads.

The Olney Master Plan designates us as a satellite community. Today, Olney has close to 50,000 residents divided among council districts 2 and 4. This division has enabled us to appreciate this unique "dual" representation. We may now call upon two council persons to help us resolve the many community concerns we have faced. While it appears our community is divided on paper, we also firmly believe in the tried and true adage: "If it ain't broke - don't fix it!" We have a celebrated community, once rated the 17th best place to live in the United States, and we're very proud of ourselves. The annual **GOCA Awards Ceremony** and **Olney Days Celebration and Parade** is attended by many County Councilmembers, our County Executive, and many of our State Senators and Delegates.

Since 2000 we have seen tremendous growth in all areas of Montgomery County, of course including Olney. We all know that District 2 will see changes and the Olney community reflects the diversity of the district with many cultures and ethnicities represented. The Olney community asks that you consider the fact that we saw major District changes in 1990 as well as in 2000 - and we need no more surprises on Election Day. We firmly believe a certain way to decrease voter turnout is constant changing of precincts, voting places and representation.

We request that you allow Olney to keep the alignment we currently have. We have established a great rapport with our Councilmembers in Districts 2 and 4 and we wish to continue to work with our elected officials for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely Yours,

Matt Zaborsky
President